



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

The application of:

Takaei SASAKI et al

Serial No.: 10/706,944

Filed: November 14, 2003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DRY-ETCHING HALF-TONE PHASE-SHIFT FILMS, HALF-TONE PHASE-SHIFT PHOTOMASKS AND METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION THEREOF, AND SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUITS AND METHOD FOR THE FABRICATION THEREOF

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

December 23, 2003

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows: